

BA-1602

Wickcliffe, (Walter Wicks Mansion, Maryvale Prep School)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 06-23-2004

BA 1602
Wickcliffe (Maryvale School)
Sisters of Notre Dame
1501 Valley Road
Brooklandville, Md. 21022
Private

Wickcliffe is a spectacular rendition of a late medieval English house, as large as many of its prototypes. It is now used as a school.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA 1602
X-887.410
Y-580.410

MAGI # 0316021702

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

WICKCLIFFE

AND/OR COMMON

Maryvale

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1501 Valley Road

CITY, TOWN

Brooklandville

STATE

Maryland

Second
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Baltimore

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

☒ EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Sisters of Notre Dame

Telephone #: 252-3366

STREET & NUMBER

1501 Valley Road

CITY, TOWN

Brooklandville, Md.

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

21022

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore

County Courts Building

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson.

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: 5098

Folio #: 248

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED (exterior)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED (interior)	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

WICKCLIFFE is a large and carefully-designed replica of a late medieval English house, a transitional period when many vestiges were retained of the earlier fortifications yet one which allowed the use of many windows. WICKCLIFFE was designed by Wilson L. Smith, a Baltimore architect, and built about 1912.

The picturesque and irregular structure is of rubble stone with cast-stone trim. Basically expressed as two storeys most of the polygonal towers rise three storeys and an attic storey under the steep roof over the entire structure is masked by a crenelated parapet. The principal entrance facade is the north and the south facade faces the valley, a vista heavily enclosed by the wooded slopes. A crenelated porte-cochere shelters the principal entrance, more or less centered in the north facade and a great mullioned window rises above it, flanked by narrow polygonal crenelated towers. A major wing extends north from the east end, the inside corner marked by a secondary entrance in a low polygonal tower and a broad polygonal tower rises in two stages high above the turn toward the outside corner. The openings in the porte-cochere and doors are four-centered and they are embellished with cast-stone heraldic ornament and label lintels. Windows generally are paired or grouped in larger units with cast-stone mullions; glazing is rectangular set in lead cames. The many chimneys which rise above the roof have separately-expressed flues in ornamental terra-cotta of varying patterns.

The principal stair rises above the entrance, the great mullioned window lighting the landing and halls of both storeys. The principal rooms of the first storey have wall paneling, doors, ceilings, mantels, lighting fixtures and other details carefully designed and authentically detailed in the Tudor period. The details of each room are slightly different. A Great Hall is centered south of the entrance and staircase. The Dining Room, now adapted as a Chapel, is to the east and a Library is to the west. Farther to the west is a Game and Trophy Room with exposed stone walls. A small Breakfast Room is immediately west of the staircase.

The northeast wing is the Service Wing where details are of the simplest types characteristic of the early twentieth century

WICKCLIFFE
1602

Page 2
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period of its construction.

The second storey detailing is much simpler than the first, recalling the very late eighteenth and very early nineteenth century, as though the late medieval house had been modernized in that period. The Tudor detailing is only in the stair hall.

In the basement, which extends beneath the entire house, were wine cellars, the laundry and other service features; these spaces have been adapted as the school cafeteria, shops, etc.

A small formal walled garden is at the west end of the house and the southerly slope is developed in a series of falls and terraces with formal plantings. A stone garage is east of the service wing, its doors within four-centered arches; its other detailing recalls that of the house. The property is very successfully adapted as a school.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Designed by Wilson L. Smith of Baltimore and built about 1912 WICKCLIFFE is a spectacular rendition of a late medieval English house, as large as many of its prototypes. Its correct exterior detailing, the correct detailing of its principal spaces within, its walled formal garden and its spectacular hilltop site give the visitor a convincingly English experience.

For over 130 years, private schools have found a receptive climate in the Green Spring Valley. Historically, the area sponsored one private school at a time. Since most were operated by the rectors of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, each change in clergy resulted in the establishment of another "new" school. Today the area has a number of private schools co-existing together, several of which have continued the tradition of being church-affiliated institutions.

One example is the Maryvale School which came to the Green Spring Valley in the mid twentieth century. The Baltimore Province of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur purchased in 1945, Wickcliffe, the private home of DR. and Mrs. Walter F. Wickes located at the north-eastern end of the Valley. On this 180 acres, the Catholic organization established a school for the education of young girls and boys from pre-primary through eighth grade. The preparatory school for Trinity College was for girls of high school age.

The property, once part of the historic Brooklandwood estate, had been purchased by Dr. Wickes in 1912. He hired the Baltimore architect Wilson L. Smith, to build him a stone residence modeled after Warwick Castle in England. Completed in 1916, it took two years to finish at the cost of over \$200,000⁴. The house attracted a great deal of interest at the time, both because of its Tudor-style architecture and because it was reportedly the "largest private residence in this part of the Country" at that time. The entrance hall itself measured 32 x 44 feet.⁵

As with any home going converted into a new use, Wickcliffe underwent some alterations for its new function as a private school. On the first floor, the former breakfast room was adapted into a dining room for students; today it is used by the faculty. Originally the numerous rooms were utilized as classrooms.

Despite its size, it was soon evident that the castle had inherent inadequacies in meeting educational needs. Thus a modern building was added to the campus which provided more classroom space,⁷ a chemistry laboratory and lecture room and a auditorium- gymnasium.

Wickcliffe

(Maryvale School)

Footnotes

1

For a more detailed accounting of schools in the Green Spring Valley, see Volume One, Chapter Seven "Education" in Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes, The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978).

2

Baltimore County Land Records (BCLR), Liber. 5098, fol. 248 Towson Court House, Towson, Maryland; "Maryvale-Maryland's Warwick Castle," Baltimore Sun, 9 May 1959.

3

BCLR, Liber WPC-406 fol. 2188, Towson.

4

"New Home in Valley," Baltimore American, 21 October 1913; "To Build In Valley," Baltimore American, 25 September 1915.

5

"Maryvale-Maryland's Warwick Castle."

6

Ibid.; "Maryvale," mimeographed article (c. 1975) on the school made available by Sister Rita McLaughlin, principal.

7

See note 5.

Bibliography

Thomas, Dawn F. and Robert W. Barnes. The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes; The Green Spring Valley, Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. (Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, 1978)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James T. Wollon, Jr., A.I.A. / Dawn F. Thomas, Research Historian 2-14-80

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Valleys Planning Council

828-7807

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

212 Washington Avenue

Maryland

CITY OR TOWN

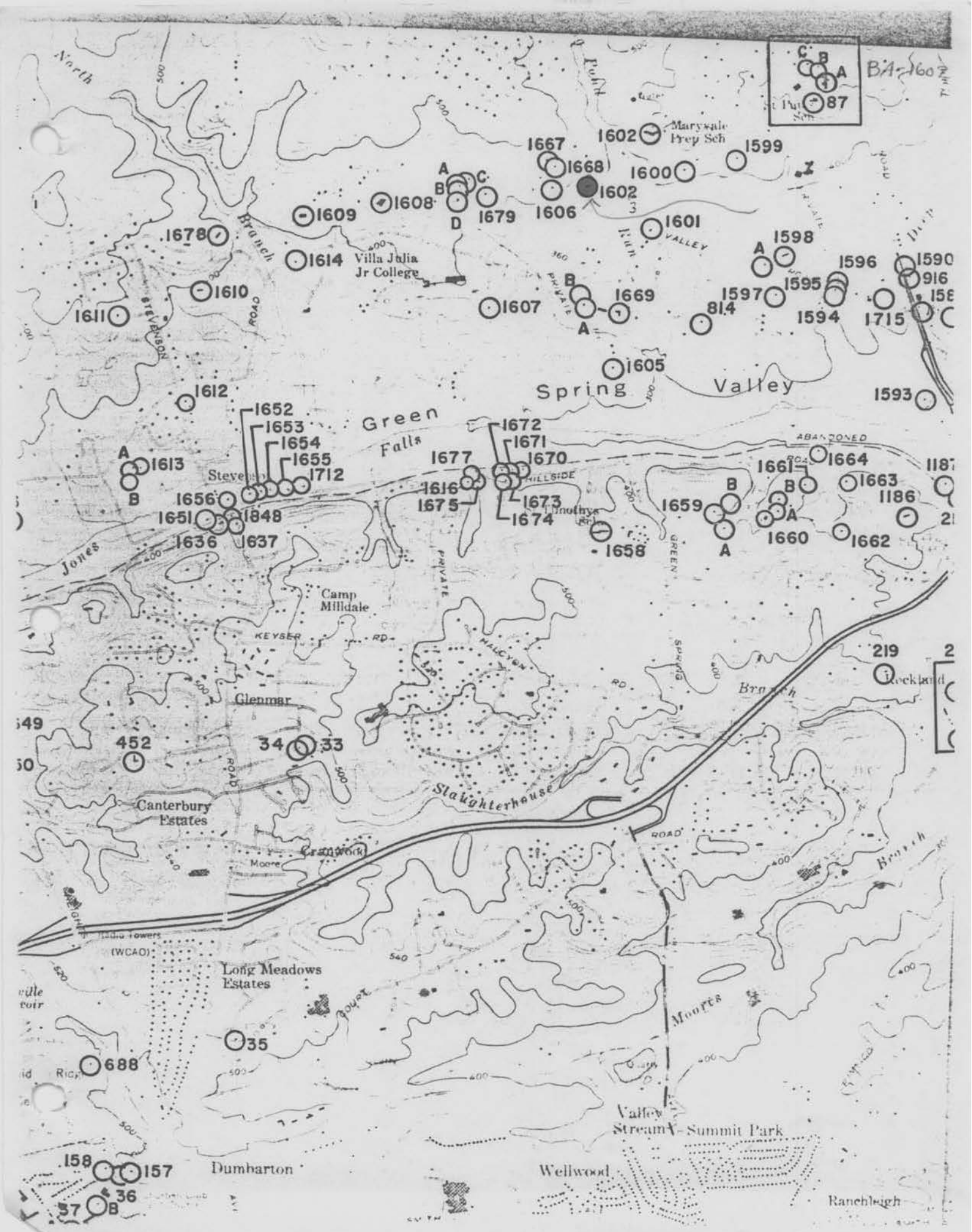
STATE

Towson

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438





BA 1602

Wickcliffe

Maryvale

School

Valley Rd.

JTW

8-21-79

Md. Hist. Tr

from NW